

FOR: THE TOBACCO INSTITUTE, INC.

McComas Research
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JAN 5 1960

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"TOBACCO CHURCHES"CONTINUE TRADITION

Churches being built today with funds from sales of home-grown tobacco are continuing an historic colonial tradition, according to a story in the December issue of Tobacco News.

Typical modern-day church projects are under way at the Union Baptist church at Cycle, N.C., and the Manson Methodist church near McKenney, Va.

At the Manson church, for example, tobacco was grown for five years on small plots donated by church members. Everyone pitched in. Business men, housewives and even children planted, tended, and harvested the crop on weekends and in their spare time. By September 1959 the tobacco fund had grown sufficiently to start the new church which is rising near the site where there has been a Manson church since 1815.

An even older "tobacco church" is St. Thomas Episcopal at Croom, Md. This church, still in use today, was constructed in 1732 with funds from a levy of tobacco leaf imposed by parishioners upon themselves to "construct a chapel of ease."

St. Thomas members and their rector, the Rev. Richard D. Hartman, tell the story of their church with pride and originality. They hand out to friends and visitors special match folders with the church history briefly told on the inside cover under the heading: "St. Thomas Church was Built by Tobacco."

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